

Newsline

A glance at news affecting Laughlin

Millennium event

Del Rio Mayor Roberto Chavira invites all Laughlin members to a millennium reception in the Pecan Room of the Civic Center from 7-9 p.m. Dec. 30. Finale of the activities will be a fireworks display from Val Verde Fairgrounds at 9:30.

"The arrival of a millennium is a rare event, and I would like our community to gather together for an appropriate observance to mark this occasion," Chavira said.

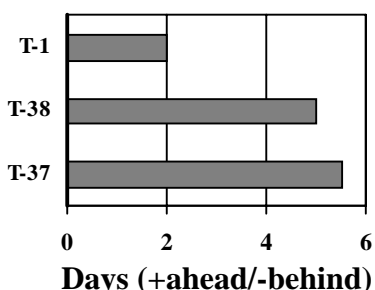
The event provides free, family-oriented entertainment including Laughlin's Thomas Cooper and Robert Wade. Free refreshments of cookies, hot chocolate and soft drinks will be provided for everyone at the Civic Center.

The fireworks display may be viewed from the grounds of the center, or everyone is invited to travel to the fairgrounds for front-row seats in the grandstands.

Mission status

(As of Dec. 24)

Student Timeline



Sorties flown in FY 00:
9,324

Hours flown in FY 00:
14,183.2

Pilot wings earned in FY 00:
75

Pilot wings earned since 1963:
11,460

Two base enlisted members to take commissioning oath

By Staff Sgt. Reginal Woodruff
Public affairs

Two Laughlin enlisted members will soon become officers through two of the Air Force commissioning programs.

Staff Sgt. Eric Silver, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron, and Staff Sgt. Jason Ballard, 47th Communications Squadron, were accepted into the Air Force Officer Training School and Airman Scholarship and Commissioning Program, respectively.

Silver was among 103 enlisted members selected to attend OTS by a Headquarters Air Force Recruiting Service selection board.

"I was somewhat excited but more relieved," Silver said of his acceptance to OTS. "I submitted my package five times before being accepted. It's the feeling of finally having all my hard work pay off."

Modestly, Silver credits others more than himself for his accomplishment.

"The people at the base education office were very instrumental in helping me complete the various forms required by the selection board," explained Silver. "My wife, Robyn, and my daughter, Kiara, gave me tremendous support. I definitely could not have done this with-

out them. They've been my biggest supporters through everything. I'm also very grateful to God for all the life experiences, good and bad, that have only proved to make me stronger and for giving me a strong mother who stressed discipline to me at a young age. I also owe thanks to my mentor, Chief (Arthur) Johnson at Randolph Air Force Base. Honest advice from good senior leadership is invaluable."

Silver, who has a bachelor's degree in engineering and is scheduled to complete a masters of business administration degree next year, stressed that becoming an officer is only a career progression, not his final goal.

"Becoming an officer was definitely not my reason for getting my education," he said. "There's no relationship. I wanted to create greater opportunities for my family and me."

The ASCP gives Ballard and other active duty AF enlisted personnel the op-

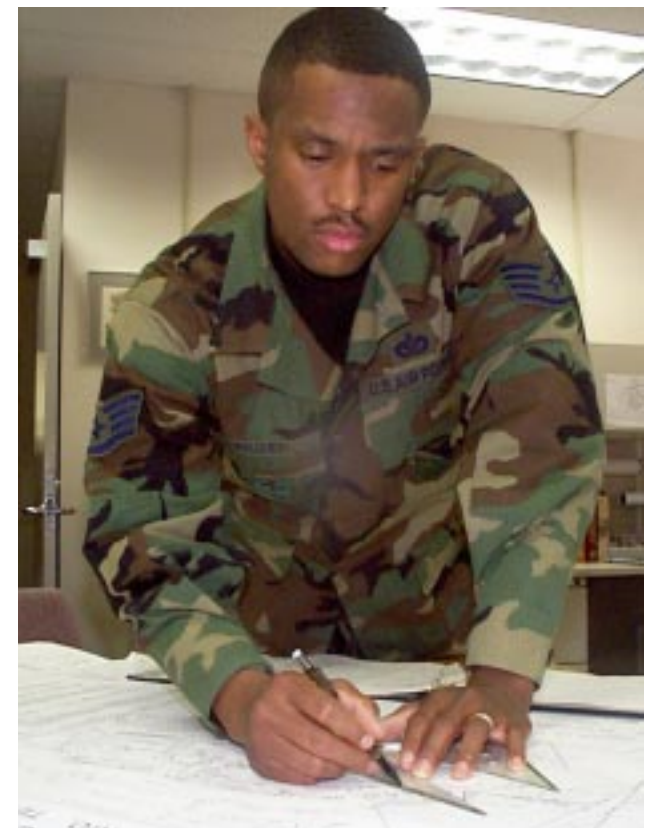


Photo by Zenaphir Bond

Silver works on a design for an interior office renovation in building 348.

portunity to earn a commission while completing requirements for their first undergraduate degree as an AF Reserve Of-

See 'Officer,' page 8

Holiday greetings, thanks from the wing commander

By Col. Skip Scott

47th Flying Training Wing commander

Kathy and I wish to extend to the members of Laughlin, their families and the community of Del Rio our very warmest wishes for a peaceful and blessed holiday season.

We've never lived in such close-knit, caring communities as Laughlin and Del Rio. We appreciate everyone's support.

I thank all of you for your hard work and dedication – this is the premiere pilot training base in the command because of your efforts. As you celebrate this season, pause to reflect on the

great accomplishments you have made over the last year. You have played significant roles in many success stories. Never forget, your training prepares our future Air Force.

We must not forget those from Laughlin who are deployed during the holidays. I thank their families for being strong while they're away. Please keep our deployed folks and their families in your thoughts and wish them a safe return soon.

This season is a special time in our household, and we wish the same for each of you.

I look forward to great things for the 47 FTW in 2000!!!

t h e **inside scoop**

Commander corner...

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James Hough, 47th Flying Training Wing chaplain, suggests lighting a spiritual light.

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Holiday greetings ...

Senior Air Force leaders extend holiday well-wishes to the Air Force members and families.

Page 2

Operation Jingle ...

Project sponsored by first sergeant's council raises more than \$5000 for enlisted families in need.

Page 8

Air Force leaders send holiday greetings

By F. Whitten Peters

Secretary of the Air Force and

Gen. Michael E. Ryan

Air Force chief of staff



Peters



Ryan

WASHINGTON – Each year during the holiday season, we gather with friends and family to give thanks for the blessings of the past year and to establish resolutions for the future. This particular season is unique because we are about to leave a spectacular 20th century behind and move with great optimism into the next millennium.

You should take great pride in the knowledge that as we close this century our nation has a pervasive and growing appreciation for the importance and potential of aerospace power. Your victory in Kosovo, a major theater air war, was a magnificent display of teamwork, professionalism, and leader-

ship made possible by the total Air Force team – active duty, Reserve, Air Guard and civilians. You moved people and equipment with lightning speed and prosecuted a brilliant air campaign that brought to bear all of our core competencies in a righteous cause with a just outcome.

You proved that the expeditionary aerospace force is not just a vision – it is reality. The New Year holds great promise as we continue the journey of reshaping ourselves for the new century.

We are immensely proud of you and honored to serve with you. We thank you and your families for your service and your sacrifices. If you can, please take time out to enjoy your families and friends. If duty has you away from hearth and home, know that a grateful

nation thanks you and keeps you in its thoughts and prayers.

We wish all the men and women of the Air Force family a safe and joyous holiday season and a wonderful and exciting New Year!

(AFPN)

We are immensely proud of you and honored to serve with you. We thank you and your families for your service and your sacrifices.

Commander

Orner

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.)

James Hough

47th Flying Training Wing
Chaplain

When we light a candle, when we turn on a light, when we turn on a flashlight, we can see what is around us – or we can walk on a path without stumbling. This is a simple truth. We do this all the time. When we exercise our faith and worship God, a spiritual light is lit. Christmas and Hanukkah remind us of this truth.

For Christians, Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Christ. He came into this world to light the path for our salvation. When we accept God's provision of salvation, our lives are illuminated with the hope of what Christ offers us. The darkness – drifting through life without purpose or direction, the lack of inner peace, the remorse of rebelling against God – will give way to the light of Christ's life in

A light exercise for the soul

us. We become fully alive when we put our faith and trust in Him. When we experience this divine truth, we experience an illumination of new insight into the purpose and plan of God's will for our lives. It is a miracle that transforms us into a new creation.

For the Jewish community, Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights or the Feast of Dedication, is also a celebration of a miracle God

gave to the Jewish community. Hanukkah means dedication. In 165 BC, Judas Maccabees and his followers defeated the Syrian army. During that revolt, a light was needed to burn in the temple in Jerusalem. But they only had a one-day supply. God performed a miracle by causing that light to shine for

eight days. The Jews dedicated the temple at Jerusalem for the worship of almighty God. The Jewish community commemorates this victory and dedication of the temple in this celebration. Hanukkah is God's reminder that He will always provide for us.

When we take the time to exercise our faith, we experience the light of God illuminating our souls and giving us hope.

tend. We wonder how we are going to fit it all in.

But when we take the time to exercise our faith, we experience the light of God illuminating our souls and giving us hope. We begin to see new insights in our world. We experience a new power that energizes

See 'Hough,' page 15

Newton sends holiday message

By Gen. Lloyd W. Newton

Commander, Air Education and Training Command

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – It has been a busy, challenging year in AETC. I want to express my gratitude for your hard work, steadfast dedication and superior professionalism. The men and women of The First Command have earned the right to reflect with pride on all we've accomplished this year. With recruiting and retention challenges across the services, there is no duty more crucial than ours.

The holiday season will hopefully give us a chance to relax, "re-charge our batteries," and share the joy and hope of this special time with family and friends. But, not everyone can be with family and friends. The "expectation of cheer" can sometimes bring on feelings of loneliness, disappointment and personal stress. I ask everyone to be attuned to those around you and to yourself. Don't be reluctant to reach out to others and help them through the holiday season. Also, call someone if you need help. We are all here for each other, especially commanders and first sergeants.

For a short period over the holidays, our training pace will slow somewhat to allow as many people as possible to travel to visit family, or to enjoy social times with friends nearby. Please travel safely, be careful – and exercise good judgment when going home after a holiday party.

The Newtons and the McIlvoys send our very best wishes to you and your loved ones during this season of peace and joy. May the true spirit of the season fill your hearts and your homes.

(AETCNS)

Actionline

Call 298-5351

when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the *Border Eagle*. Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

W. W. Scott III

Col. Winfield W. Scott III

47th Flying Training Wing commander



AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Inspector General	298-5638
Legal	298-5172
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810
Equal Opportunity	298-5400
FWA hotline	298-4170

Border Eagle

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7th Bomb Wing, Dyess AFB, Texas.)

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News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, Ext. 5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.** Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday. Submissions can be E-mailed to: michael.hammond@laughlin.af.mil or reginal.woodruff@laughlin.af.mil Visit Laughlin's website at <http://www.laughlin.af.mil/>

**“Excellence –
not our goal, but
our standard.”**
– 47 FTW motto

Safety Stats
As of Dec. 20, 1999
(Fiscal Year)

	'00	Total '99
On-duty mishaps	1	5
Off-duty mishaps	1	12
Traffic mishaps	0	2
Sports & Rec mishaps	1	6
Fatalities	0	0

Base recognizes fourth quarter award winners



**Airman 1st Class
Stephen R. Maclin II**
47th Communications Squadron
Airman



1st Lt. Todd T. Knight
87th Flying Training Squadron
Instructor Pilot



Mary A. Heinrich
47th Mission Support Squadron
Civilian Category I



**Master Sgt.
Douglas Brodmerkel**
47th Operations Support Squadron
Senior NCO



Sharon Tweedy
47th Support Group
NAF Category I



Alma McCrary
47th Support Group
NAF Category II



**Senior Airman
Charlie A. Rodriguez**
47th Flying Training Wing
Honor Guard member



Mark R. Maxfield
47th Support Group
Civilian, Category III



Kevin R. McLeod
47th Comptroller Flight
Civilian Category II



Staff Sgt. Michael A. Radke
47th Support Group
NCO



Capt. Anthony W.B. Holmes
47th Support Group
Company Grade Officer, Volunteer



Four promoted to senior airman Below-the-Zone

Four enlisted servicemembers were informed recently that they were selected for promotion to senior airman six months early. These members were selected under the Below-the-Zone program, which allows exceptional junior enlisted performers to make rank early. Airman 1st Class Bridgette M. Chrisman, 47th Comptroller Flight, was also selected below the zone, but was unavailable for a photograph.



A1C Roy E. Meffley
47th Operations Support Squadron



A1C Tina R. Storz
47th Communications Squadron



A1C Derek E. Stamper
47 CS

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

- Daily Mass 12:05 p.m.
- Saturday Mass 5 p.m.
- Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m.
- Confession 4:15 - 4:45 p.m.
- Saturday, or by appointment.
- Choir 6 p.m. Thursdays.
- Sunday school 11 a.m., religious education building.

11 a.m. Thursday, chapel fellowship hall.
-Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., religious education building.

Jewish

- Max Stool
- 219 West Strickland St.
- Del Rio, Texas
- Phone: 775-4519

Protestant

- General worship 11 a.m.
- Bible study video luncheon

For more information on chapel events and services, call 5111.



The *XLer*

Hometown: Marathon, Texas.
Family: Wife, Tula; son, Abel, 21; daughter, Zelda, 19; son, Adrian, 13.
Time at Laughlin: 6 years active, 2 years civil service.
Time in service: 22 years.
Why did you join the Air Force family? Great life!
Name one way to improve life at Laughlin: To educate those who have a negative perspective by stressing the good things about Laughlin and its surrounding areas.
Greatest accomplishment: Finishing out 20 years of dedicated service to Uncle Sam.
Long-term goals: Get my children to complete their college education.
Hobbies: Hunting and working around the house.
Favorite food, beverage: Orange-flavored tea, brisket.
Bad habit: Working late and not letting the wife know.
Motto: One that stuck with me from the ol' high school football days. Winners never quit and quitters never win.
If you could spend one hour with an historical figure, who would it be and why? Christopher Columbus. I would like to hear his thoughts on discovering America.

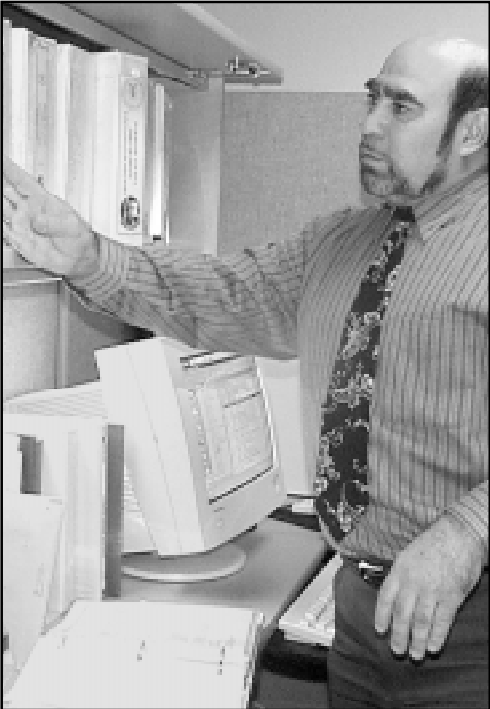


Photo by Zenaphir Bond

Jose R. Acosta
47th Contracting Squadron

AAFES offers New Year's credit plans

DALLAS – From Sunday through Jan. 1, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service wants to celebrate the new year by offering zero percent interest for three months. They are also offering no down payment and no monthly payments for three months on all storewide purchases for its Deferred Payment Plan and Naval Exchange card customers.

The promotion applies to store stock, special orders, stock ordered as a special buy, or merchandise purchased through the catalog during the special period. However, it doesn't apply to military clothing, alcohol, theater ticket or food facility purchases.

"Not only will our customers not have to make a payment until April 2000, but AAFES also won't allow the interest to accrue like some of the competitors do," said Jan Adrian, exchange credit program marketing manager. "We'll also not require a balloon payment at the end of the three months,"

she said.

For AAFES customers who don't have a DPP card, applications are available in various AAFES facilities and credit checks take only a few moments. Plus, they'll receive a 10 percent discount on their entire purchase, not to exceed a \$100 discount.

AAFES will work with customers who already have a DPP or NEXCARD account that want to increase their limit. Credit limit increases are based on creditworthiness and the customers' ability to handle additional credit.

"The interest rate on our cards will remain the U.S. prime rate plus 4.75 percent," Adrian said. "Also, we have not raised the DPP interest rate in correlation with the last three U.S. prime interest rate hikes and we don't plan to raise it any time soon," she said.

"This is just another opportunity for AAFES to let its customers know they're appreciated and that we hope they have a very happy holiday," Adrian said.

Promotional rate offered on club membership MasterCard

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The Air Force club membership MasterCard program has made a special limited-time offer of a 9.99 percent promotional rate to eligible non-club members as an incentive to join either the officers' or enlisted military clubs.

Although this initiative targets eligible non-club members, the promotional rate offer has been made available to existing members who qualify, transfer a balance of \$500 or more and wish to request this value-added incentive rate.

If an existing club member qualifies, the lower rate applies only to new purchases after the rate changes and to balance transfers authorized at the time of the rate change. Existing balances will continue at the previous rate.

Non-promotional pricing under this program is prime plus 5 percent – currently 13.5 percent. Terms and conditions of this pricing include: no annual fee; a finance charge for cash advances of 2.5 percent of the cash advance (with a minimum of \$2.50 and a maximum of \$20); a late fee of \$20; a return-check fee of \$15; and an overlimit fee of \$15.

Existing members with MasterCard club membership accounts who wish to be considered for the promotional rate should call 1-888-240-8394 prior to Feb. 1.

(AFPN)

Cohen directs DoD to assess harassment

WASHINGTON – Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen has given the Defense Department inspector general 90 days to assess the environment at representative installations within each military department with respect to the application of the homosexual conduct policy.

The assessment will include a review of the extent to which the harassment of service members based on perceived or alleged homosexuality may occur. The extent to which disparaging speech or expression with respect to sexual orientation occurs or is tolerated will also be assessed.

"As I have previously indicated, I am determined that the policy on homosexual conduct in the military be clearly understood and fairly enforced," he said. "This is critically important, as the effectiveness of the department's application and enforcement of the policy has a direct relationship to unit cohesion and readiness."

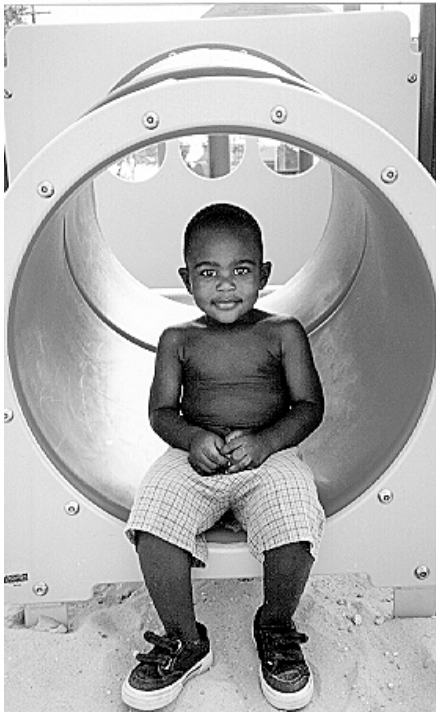


Photo by Sherrie McDonald

Winning photo

William, 2, takes a break from play at the Child Development Center playground. This photo, taken by CDC director Sherrie McDonald, came in first place at the base level of the Air Force Photography Contest. Fourteen entries were received at Laughlin, all of which are now being judged at Randolph AFB for the AETC-level competition. For more information on entering next year's contest, call John Day, 47th Services Division Frame and Woodcraft shop, at 5153.

Happy Holidays



from the Border Eagle staff



Surveys track Tricare progress, patient satisfaction

By Douglas J. Gillert
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The fourth annual survey of Tricare beneficiaries shows that patients generally like the health care they get, but they’re often frustrated just getting in to see a doctor.

More than 200,000 adults eligible for Military Health System benefits were surveyed, with 37 percent responding. The response rate was down from 50 percent the previous two years. However, a telephone survey of those who didn’t complete surveys failed to establish that there were significant differences in their satisfaction with Tricare compared to those who completed surveys.

“Our beneficiaries largely are satisfied with the care when they can get to it,” said Army Lt. Col. Thomas Williams, director of program evaluation for the Tricare Management Activity. “And importantly, we’re meeting or exceeding most national goals in preventive care for our beneficiaries.”

Beneficiaries are more critical of Tricare, however, when it comes to making appointments, Williams said. “We need to maintain our high performance in the care we deliver and the providers we attract and retain, but we also need to investigate how we can most efficiently get people into this system with a minimum amount of hassle.”

“The Tricare Management Activity wants comprehensive, high quality data that allows comparisons across systems of care,” Williams said. Data for the current survey was drawn from patients’ health care experiences during 1998. Questions in the 1998 survey were based on the Consumer Assessment of Health Plans, a nationally recognized standard for measuring health care systems. “Changing the survey to reflect national standards of consumer assessment puts us in a much better position to determine what’s good or bad about Tricare,” he said.

“If you look at the benchmark data, when our beneficiaries comment about their personal physician and the care they get, we are comparable to national figures,” Williams said. “Those figures reflect, I think, a large degree of satisfaction. Those common measures of satis-

faction start to drop the further removed that measure is from the interpersonal provider-patient relationship. So while the criticism we receive is characteristic of what is being discovered nationally, we’re still not at the level we’d like to be.”

Tricare access goals also must be within reach, Williams said. “I think a realistic goal would be somewhat short of 100 percent satisfaction with the appointment systems,” he said. “Our goals should be established with some recognition of what’s going on outside of the Military Health System and what other systems have experienced.”

Information from the annual survey is provided to medical commanders to help them shape local health care delivery. In addition, the information is used by the Center for Naval Analysis to compile an annual report to Congress, coupled with cost data derived from a variety of sources by the Institute for Defense Analyses.

The congressional report uses more sophisticated analytic tools to track beneficiary attitudes but still generally supports the annual survey findings, Williams said. The two contractors first reported on Tricare in the Pacific Northwest, Tricare’s oldest active region. For the 1999 report to Congress, they revisited that region plus six others that have been active for at least one year. By 2001, all regions will be included in the report, Williams said.

The report comments on differences apparent between 1994 and 1997 on a number of issues regarding health cost, quality and access.

“This is an ongoing effort to try to explain what has happened under Tricare relative to what was going on in 1994 and where we think the old Champus would have gotten us,” Williams said.

The CNA/IDA report looked at out-of-pocket costs to beneficiaries compared to what military health care cost them under Champus. They found that those enrolled in Tricare Prime generally paid fewer additional annual costs in 1998 than they had from 1994 to 1997, while those not enrolled but using Tricare for

their health care paid more out-of-pocket expenses. Retiree costs went up, but Williams said that’s mostly due to enrollment fees.

Although the surveys provide Tricare with useful information, making changes to the military health care system isn’t easy, Williams said. The challenge, he said, is to provide medical commanders the most current information available that they can then use to fine-tune the health care services they provide.

“They are interested in getting feedback more than on an annual basis,” he said. “That indicates there is a need for more current information.”

Williams said his office is going to give the commanders what they need, by performing future customer surveys quarterly instead of annually. Tricare will still look at customer satisfaction over the past 12 months, but instead of surveying the entire sample once a year, it will break the sampling down into four quarterly segments, he said. “It’s going to be a rolling snapshot of how they’re doing.”

To affect improvements across the system, national performance measures will be incorporated in future managed care support contracts, Williams said. Contractors may be paid incentives if they exceed national figures for meeting beneficiary needs in getting the care they need, getting that care when they need it, while receiving good customer service, including claims processing.

“Efficient, effective access is such an important issue,” Williams said. “We recognize that it’s not your personal physician; it’s not the care you get; it’s getting in the door. Our contractors may be an important source of support in tackling this issue.”

The 1999 Tricare Stakeholders Report provides an in-depth review of what the Tricare Management Activity has done in the last 12 months to improve such beneficiary concerns as access, claims processing and customer service.

(AFNS)

Information from the annual survey is provided to medical commanders to help them shape local health care delivery.

OSC dedicates time, effort to raise money for charity

By 1st Lt.
Angela O’Connell
Public affairs officer

Coffees, teas, Bunko and socials may be the first things that come to your mind when one thinks of the Officer’s Spouses Club, but that couldn’t be farther from the truth.

The OSC dedicates time, effort and its many talents to enhance the base and local communities, adding something special to Laughlin and Del Rio.

“We want to give to the Laughlin and Del Rio communities,” said Julie Nickerson, OSC president. And give they do.

Through many fundraisers held during the year and profits generated from the thrift shop, the OSC managed to raise approximately \$15,000 to give to various charities, as well as fund the many scholarships they give out through the year.

Some of their fundraisers include an art auction, the recent arts and crafts bazaar and an upcoming charitable auction to be held Jan. 15 at Club XL.

“Our main goal is to operate for charitable requests,” said Nickerson. The OSC spends most all of its budget on donations to organizations and local scholarships.

The OSC has donated this year to:

- The Air Force Village
- Boy/Girl Scouts
- They are sponsoring two families for Christmas.

- Operation Jingle
- Amistad Family Violence
- Friends of Family Support

Through many fundraisers held during the year and profits generated from the thrift shop, the OSC managed to raise approximately \$15,000 to give to various charities.

- American Red Cross
- Quarterly/Annual Awards
- Fisher House: A home away from home for military families whose loved ones have been hospitalized.
- General and Mrs. Lemay Foundation

These are only a few of the

many organizations that the 130 member OSC has donated time and talents to, and the list keeps on growing each year.

Last year, the OSC gave out four scholarships adding up to a total of \$4,000. There were two given to high school students, one to a spouse and one to an active duty member with the rank of staff sergeant. The high school applications are open to all high school students including dependents of DoD civilians, active duty or retired.

Applications will be in the education office and all high school counselors’ offices on Feb. 1.

To find out more about the OSC, or to help in the fundraising efforts, please call Julie Nickerson at 298-0215.

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intake.

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<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>

United States Air Force



ONLINE
news

Bell-ringing volunteers help members in need

By Senior Airman Mike Hammond

Editor

“Every time a bell rings, an angel gets its wings!” This memorable line from the Christmas classic movie, ‘It’s a Wonderful Life,’ has a common tie to a Laughlin activity – when a bell rings, something good happens for base members in need.

For the past four weekends, volunteers – including military and civilian members and spouses – rang bells at the Base Exchange and the Commissary for Operation Jingle.

“Operation Jingle is a year-long fundraiser, sponsored by the First Sergeants Council, to raise money to help young, financially-strapped enlisted families enjoy the season’s trimmings,” said Master Sgt. J.D. Donnett, first sergeant for the

47th Medical Group.

The people of Laughlin apparently had a spirit of generosity this year, as Operation Jingle raised more than \$5,600 for families identified by their first sergeants as having a need, Donnett said. The donations were distributed in the form of \$50 commissary gift certificates at Thanksgiving and \$100 checks for Christmas.

In addition to the bell-ringing volunteers, donations were solicited from various private organizations. Santa Claus did his part to raise awareness of Operation Jingle by appearing at the BX all four weekends – posing for pictures with children while he was there!

Anyone interested in becoming involved with Operation Jingle can call Donnett at 298-6373, or any first sergeant.



Photo by Senior Airman Mike Hammond

Joshua (9) and Ethan (7) Draper, sons of Tech. Sgt. Todd and Vikki Draper, 47th Medical Support Squadron, contribute a few bucks to Operation Jingle. Master Sgt. William Arnold, 47th Medical Group, and many other volunteers, solicited donations for the project during the last four weekends.

‘Officer,’ from page 1

ficer Training Course cadet. People who are accepted into the program receive a Type II scholarship of up \$15,000, an annual textbook allowance and a \$150 monthly nontaxable allowance during the school year.

“This is a dream come true for me,” said Ballard. “My goal, when I entered the Air Force, was to earn a degree and receive a commission. I’m excited.”

Ballard will attend Troy State University in Alabama

where he’ll work toward a degree in computer science. He started taking classes at the TSU satellite at Tyndall AFB, Fla.

“This whole process got started at Tyndall,” he explained. “The information I got from the education center and the enthusiastic approach the education director took toward helping me really paved the way. I wasn’t able to apply until I got to Laughlin where Maj. (Steven) Donatucci (47th Communications Squadron commander), who was my former

flight commander at Tyndall, Capt. (Susan) Bullet, and Mr. (Bob) Carpenter (a Laughlin education counselor) pushed me and helped me get accepted. Since she is prior enlisted, Capt. Bullet was able to give me a lot of input.”

Silver and Ballard are two examples of how hard work and help from others can make dreams reality. For more information on ASCP, OTS and other commissioning programs, contact the Base Education Center at 4673.

From the 47th Medical Group

Antibiotics can have adverse effects

By Capt. Jasiri Kennedy

47th Medical Operations Squadron

Everyone occasionally suffers from a head cold or flu with the typical congestion, cough, mild fevers, sore throat and general fatigue. The vast majority of people can treat themselves very effectively with over-the-counter medications until the illness resolves itself. When these medications fail or the symptoms persist and one of our beneficiaries decides to visit the Military Training F to seek medical care, we know they are sometimes perplexed when their health care provider doesn't always prescribe an antibiotic. There is a good reason for this, and it might surprise you.

Viruses generally cause the common cold and flu and viruses unfortunately cannot be treated with antibiotics. Antibiotics are generally effective against bacterial infections only. So not only will antibiotics not work against the common cold, the inappropriate use of antibiotics in these type of illnesses can result in unnecessary and uncomfortable side effects and can lead to bacteria that are resistant to our antibiotics. This can make it extremely difficult to treat a bacterial infection later on. The truth is that around the country, many bacteria that were once killed by simple antibiotics like penicillin and sulfa drugs are now resistant and these medications are now not as effective as they once were.

This requires using more potent and expensive antibiotics for bacterial infections and these drugs often have more unwanted side effects. The good news is that viral illness like colds or flu generally run their course and get better with time.

So if you don't get an antibiotic when you have a cold or flu, remember, your health care provider is not trying to deny you treatment, he or she is simply looking out for your best interest as well as the public interest.

Filler

From the Blotter

(47th Security Forces Squadron)



Dec. 13 – The vehicle of a retired military member was struck by the installation's closing gate. The driver refused to heed the entry controller's instructions to move his vehicle prior to the incident.

Dec. 14 – During a stop for traffic violation, a patrol observed an odor of alcohol coming from a civilian employee and an open container in the vehicle. The individual was detained and turned over to the Val Verde Sheriff's Office.

Dec. 14 – An active duty member reported two small dents on the passenger door of her vehicle in the Flight Simulator building parking lot. An investigation revealed the damage was caused by the door of vehicle parked next to her car.

Dec. 15 – A caller reported a minor vehicle accident in the parking lot of the Chapparal Dining Facility. A driver backed into a parked vehicle.

Dec. 16 – The Texas State Trooper requested assistance in serving a bench warrant for unpaid traffic fines to the spouse of an active-duty member. The fines were paid by the servicemember.

Dec. 18 – A caller reported that a fire extinguisher had been discharged in the Unaccompanied Officer's Quarters. The fire extinguisher was seized by the Assistant Fire Chief.

Decal expiration – All base residents and employees should check the registration expiration date on their DoD vehicle registration sticker. If the year sticker is dated "99," you must go to Pass and Registration (located in the 47th Mission Support Squadron building) to register your vehicle before the end of the year. Failing to register your vehicle after to Jan. 14, 2000 will result in either a traffic citation or your vehicle will not be allowed onto the installation.

EMERGENCY CALL 911, NON-EMERGENCY CALL 5100

Air Force cites education as key to success, promotion

By 2nd Lt. Johnny Rea

AETC Public Affairs

People join the Air Force every day, and everyone has a different reason. For me, continuing my education was simply not one of them.

Fortunately – as a young enlisted airman 15 years ago – I had a great supervisor who put me on the right track.

The doors of opportunity for enlisted members are wide open today and the process begins with a visit to the education center. Regardless of whether you're aspiring to become a chief master sergeant, an officer or a successful person in the civilian world, some level of education is required. It can lead to more prestige, more responsibility and ultimately more money in your pocket.

I've heard people say it's "not important" to further their education as enlisted members. But most of the 286,000-plus active-duty enlisted members would probably disagree, with 92 percent of them possessing some semester hours toward a college degree. Fourteen percent of the enlisted force have a two-year associate's degree or equivalent semester hours, four percent own a bachelor's degree

and almost one percent have a master's degree.

Enlisted quarterly and annual awards boards often consider whether nominees pursue off-duty education. As a former senior noncommissioned officer, I've sat on several boards and can assure you those who made education a priority almost always fared better than those who did not.

Education is also a factor in getting promoted to the top two enlisted ranks. Of the 612 people selected for promotion to chief master sergeant in 1998, more than half own an associate's degree and almost 29 percent have a bachelor's degree. Five years ago, only 44 percent of those selected for promotion to chief had an associate's degree, and 22 percent had a bachelor's degree. The importance of education is rising.

More than 55 percent of those selected for senior master sergeant in 1999 possess an associate's degree, and almost 26 percent have a bachelor's degree. In 1995, only 47 percent had an associate's degree, and 20 percent owned a bachelor's degree.

It's not difficult to see that

without at least an associate's degree, your chances of reaching the top of the enlisted ranks dwindle each year.

If you're interested in trading your stripes for gold bars, the time has never been better. In fiscal year 1998, the Air Force sent nearly 500 people – about half of them prior enlisted – to Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. The number more than doubled in fiscal 1999 and the goal for fiscal 2000 is 1,280. But, you need a college degree to compete for a slot at OTS.

During the eight OTS selection boards held in fiscal 1999, 35 to 55 percent of the applicants selected with nontechnical degrees were active-duty Air Force people.

I've often said I couldn't take college classes because I was too busy with work or deployments. While that's been true for many in the past, the Air Force is now giving its members more stability and predictability with the new Expeditionary Aerospace Force concept.

The EAF concept should allow our units and their people to predict when they will be deployed so they can plan for training, inspections, time with

their families, and yes, even education.

Besides, just because you're away from your home station doesn't necessarily mean the education process should be put on hold. Many – if not all – of the locations we regularly deploy to offer some type of education service.

During a recent deployment to Kuwait, I was surprised to see college classes offered at a small tent city just miles from the Iraqi border. The opportunity was there, and people took advantage of it.

Some say they can't afford to take college courses. I've found it is often a matter of priorities. It took me several years to figure out that I probably don't need the loudest stereo or the newest car on the block.

Maybe in the long run I'll be better off with an education that would still put me in a position later to buy the nice stereo or car if I choose to.

While the cost of college certainly isn't getting cheaper, the Air Force Tuition Assistance program offers relief by providing up to 75 percent for active-duty tuition. Personnel officials say the tuition assistance program is one of the most com-

mon reasons people give for enlisting - and reenlisting - in the Air Force.

For most enlisted members, the first goal in the education process is a Community College of the Air Force degree. CCAF is the only degree-granting institution of higher learning in the world dedicated exclusively to enlisted people.

It offers a unique opportunity for airmen and NCOs to earn a job-related, two-year associate's in applied science degree. More than 376,000 people are registered with CCAF and almost 169,000 people have been awarded degrees.

Several testing services are also available to enlisted members – many of them free. The College Level Examination Program can help Air Force members earn college-level credit without even taking a course in a variety of subjects.

Most major colleges and universities – including CCAF – accept these tests for college credit based on a required minimum score.

Your education center holds the key to the doors of opportunity. So, stop by today and begin the process – it's the smart thing to do. **(Courtesy AFPN)**

Congress guarantees WWII veterans' funeral honors

By Linda D. Kozaryn

American Forces Press Service

As America bids farewell to the veterans of World War II, Congress has taken steps to ensure they receive their ceremonial due.

By law, as of Jan. 1, all eligible veterans will be entitled to military funeral honors signifying America's gratitude for their honorable service. Upon request, two service members will fold and present the American flag to surviving family members, and a bugler will sound taps. If a bugler is not available, a high-quality CD will be used.

At least one member of the funeral detail will be from the deceased veteran's parent military service. The other may be from the same service or another military service. Other authorized providers, such as members of a veteran's organization, may be used to augment the military detail. No particular rank is specified in the law, but the services by tradition have ensured the person presenting the flag to the family is at least the grade of the deceased veteran.

"We believe this is a very important, meaningful and moving ceremony. It's an appropriate tribute for all of our veterans," said Gail McGinn, principal director to the deputy assistant secretary of defense for Personnel Support, Families and Education. "People say the finality of taps and the presentation of the flag provide an emotional closure. The ceremony honoring the deceased veteran can be seen as an affirmation of the person's life and an expression of the nation's gratitude."

Veterans' families have had a hard time obtaining funeral honors due to the growing number of requests and to concurrent military force reductions, McGinn said.

One quarter of the nation's 26 million veterans alive today are over age 65. Department of Veterans Affairs officials project the rate of veterans' deaths will rise through 2008 to about 620,000 per year, up from 456,000 deaths in 1989 and 537,000 in 1997.

At the same time requests for funeral details have risen, the active force, since 1989, has fallen from 2.1 million to 1.4 million, with about a third stationed overseas or deployed on contingency operations. Similarly, the Reserve components have shrunk from 1.2 million to 900,000 since 1989.

In addition, 77 U.S. installations have closed since 1989, and 20 more will close by 2001. In many cases, funeral details now have to travel greater distances to provide support. McGinn's office examined 9,800 requests for funeral honors received from June 1 to Sept. 30, and found 23 percent could not be fully supported and 2 percent received no support.

While many veterans think of military funeral honors as a right, the honors grew from custom, not DOD policy. Until the new law, nothing actually said the honors were a mandatory function, McGinn said. Congress responded to public concerns by writing a provision into the fiscal 2000 Defense Authorization Act requiring the military to perform at least a basic level of funeral honors upon request for all eligible veterans.

By law, veterans are now eligible for military funeral honors if they served in the active military and were discharged under honorable conditions, or if they were a member or former

member of the Selective Reserve. Veterans are ineligible if they are convicted of federal or state capital offenses and sentenced to life without parole or receive a death penalty.

McGinn said military teams conducted 38,000 funeral honor ceremonies in 1998; 1999 statistics are not yet available. Requests in 2000 are expected to continue rising as the ranks of America's 16.1 million World War II veterans wither.

"In developing the policy, we realized the number of requests for military funeral honors was going to increase," McGinn said, "The veterans of World War II are passing away — we're anticipating that there will be about 1,500 deaths a day."

The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates about 572,000 veterans will die in 2000. DOD anticipates family requests for funeral honors each year eventually will climb to at least 45 percent of the eligible veterans — in 2000, that would be about 257,000 requests, McGinn said.

"Given the way we think the mission is going to expand, what we've tried to do is provide our veterans a dignified, professional ceremony and a proper farewell within the resources available," she said. "This is a total force mission, so we will rely on both the active and the reserve components. Reservists who participate will receive a \$50 stipend and a point toward their retirement. They may accumulate retirement points for funeral honors duty beyond the annual cap."

DOD's new policy calls for funeral directors, rather than families, to contact the military. Military funeral honors must be requested — they aren't provided automatically, McGinn noted.

"The funeral director would probably ask the family whether the deceased was a veteran and then discuss the option for funeral honors," she said. In this, defense officials are taking steps to ensure families and funeral directors know how to request military honors and what the ceremony will include.

McGinn said about 24,000 funeral directors are in line to receive DOD kits containing a directory of regional funeral honors coordinators and brochures with frequently asked questions, instructions on the proper folding of the flag and the sequence of the ceremony. The kit also will include a compact disc of "Taps" professionally recorded during 1999 Memorial Day services at Arlington Cemetery.

"A live bugler is always the first choice, but finding one is always a problem," McGinn said. "There are only 500 buglers in the whole Department of Defense and they're not strategically located across the country," she added.

DOD officials also are sending the "Taps" CDs to veterans' service organizations and to military units that will provide funeral honors. In lieu of a military bugler or the CD, families may choose to seek a professional or volunteer musician to trumpet the poignant "Taps" farewell,

See 'Honors' page 15

Question of the week

What do hope for in the new millennium?



“To keep in touch with family and friends.”

Sue Marks
Family member



“What I wish for is the whole world to be more peaceful and less violent.”

Arturo Reyes
Base post office



“I hope to be a stronger parent and provide a good family life.”

“A closer relationship with God.”

**Master Sgt.
Irene Sampsell**
47th Mission Support Squadron



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**United States Air
Force**
**ONLINE
news**

Grief from family member’s death brings reminder of holiday safety

By Jo Ann Nielsen
47th Civil Engineering Squadron

With Christmas and the New Year right around the corner, I had planned on doing the normal safety letter – drive safely, don’t drink and drive, get plenty of rest prior to going on a long trip, take motorcycle training, use seat belt, etc. At the last minute, I decided to give you a safety briefing from another angle.

Some of you know that I recently had a death in my family. My brother, Tech. Sgt. Michael Dengate, was assigned to Kadena Air Base, Japan, and was on a temporary duty assignment at Incirlik AB, Turkey, at the time of his death. As you can imagine, we were shocked and devastated to discover he had an undetected heart condition which caused his tragic death. The reason I am telling you about my personal loss is because I now have experienced first-hand the loss of a family member.

Michael did not die because of a safety-related accident, but the result was the same – devastating. His death has caused unbearable pain and a sense of loss that we will never recover from. My parents were awakened at 2:30 a.m. by Wing Chaplain (Lt. Col.) James Hough, Lt. Col. Jacqueline Harry, 47th Mission Support Squadron commander, and Capt. Jasiri Kennedy from 47th Medical Operations Squadron to notify them of their son’s death. About the same time, halfway around the world, Michael’s wife was officially being informed of his death by the similar squadrons. My father immediately notified my husband

and me. It was a struggle to comprehend the terrible news but we changed clothes quickly and rushed over. Since that day, it has been constant tears. As painful as it has been for me to deal with Michael’s death, it has been 100 times worse for my parents and Michael’s wife and children.

In the mist of disbelief, anger, pain, and tears, my parents and Michael’s wife have had to deal with the endless things that had to be done. It was a struggle for them to have to do all the necessary things in making funeral arrangements, notifying family and friends all over the country, receiving visitors, phone calls, and cards/letters of sympathy. It has been extremely difficult watching my Mom and Dad cherish every scrap of paper that was Michael’s or some little thing he

wrote years ago and crying over each piece. I will not even attempt to discuss the actual funeral; it was filled with

grief and agony as we said our last goodbye. The ordeal is not yet over, now the legal matters of his personal belongings and his will have to be taken care of. Thanks to God, Michael was an orderly and conscientious person who, in living, thought of others first. He had all the necessary documents filed and in order. This alleviated added stress from his spouse.

I have attempted to share with you a small portion of what your spouse and/or parents will have to go through if you are killed. Please take safety seriously, especially during the holiday season. People love you and they will go through unbearable pain if they lose you.

‘Hough,’ from page 2
We reach out to the needs of others. We begin to feel a warm glow in our lives. We wish that it could last forever. Well, it can! When we exercise our faith, we see God as the source of hope in our lives. He is the One who illuminates

our darkness. When we obey His will, we experience His divine presence and blessings in our lives. Our lives are filled with light, peace and purpose. This may be a simple message but it is not easy. We get distracted, challenged and doubts come. But when we choose the path of letting God

illuminate the darkness in our lives, and when we persist and seek God for His will, there is joy and light in our souls. It is worth the journey because God is directing our path. May this holy season and this next year be filled with God’s abundant light and His presence in your life.

‘Honors’ from page 11
McGinn said.

“The bugler is supposed to be out of sight, as is the audio equipment if the CD is used,” she noted. DOD plans to issue training videotapes starting early next year to units that will conduct honors ceremonies. The tapes will set a DOD standard in terms of how the basic ceremony is conducted. MCGinn said she and other DOD officials are often asked whether the basic ceremony is all any veteran can expect. She answers, “not necessarily.”

“The services have traditions for the provision of military funeral honors,” she said. “A member who ides while on active duty receives a higher level of support in military funeral honors. The same is true of veterans who are war heroes, such as Medal of Honor recipients.

“The services, based on their

traditions, may render additional elements of military funeral honors,” McGinn said. “Veterans organizations that currently provide military funeral honors can work with us in accordance with the law to provide other parts of an honors ceremony such as a firing party.”

A DOD Web site explaining the funeral honors process is scheduled to go on-line Jan. 1 at www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil/ A toll free number, 1-877-MIL-HONOR, also will be available Jan. 1 for funeral directors to coordinate ceremonies.

“We believe it is important to demonstrate the country’s gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended our country,” McGinn said. “We want the Department’s Military Funeral Honors Program to do that for our veterans and their families.”

(Courtesy AFPN)

Air Force colonel referees basketball games part-time

By Senior Airman Jeffrey Bishop

Air Force Print News

Rated navigator. Air Force Academy graduate. Judge advocate. Military judge. International-licensed basketball referee. Sounds like the resume of a fictional TV character, doesn't it?

Instead, it belongs to Col. Patrick Rosenow. And as impressive as it is, he doesn't let it go to his head. Why? Because he's the first to admit he isn't perfect.

"If you think you're perfect, referee a basketball game, because you'll know within 10 minutes that you're not," said the future chief Central Circuit Court trial judge and the newest member of the Air Force's largest and busiest court system.

Like many other kids, Rosenow, an Air Force "brat," played basketball growing up. But he wasn't quite good enough for the academy team. So he played at the intramural level there until graduating in 1976, when he went to Mather Air Force Base, Calif., for navigator school.

It was at Mather, and at his follow-on assignment to Fairchild AFB, Wash., as a KC-135 tanker nav, that he first parlayed his love for the game into officiating it, refereeing high school as well as base-level intramural and varsity ball. Since then, refereeing basketball has been for Rosenow a hobby that, as an airman, he has taken around the world, and which, as an official, has taken him around the world.

His break into the international officiating arena came at the same time as his break into the legal arena. As a law student in the Air Force's Funded Legal Education Program at Duke University, N.C., Rosenow continued officiating basketball. While there, he answered an ad soliciting international referees. After taking a test

and submitting a letter of recommendation, he was licensed by the International Basketball Association.

License in hand, Rosenow was nonetheless unsure when, or even if, he would use it. That is, until he was assigned to Andersen AFB, Guam. Still living in the temporary lodging facility there, he called the base gym to inquire about officiating opportunities.

"They said, 'You're kidding? We've got an international tournament next week, and we've got nobody on the island who can do international basketball!'"

Rosenow recalled. "I had to try to remember all these rules and differences and my wife and I were running around on Guam trying to find a gray pair of slacks, the right black shoes and a whistle, because that was in household goods."

During his almost three-year tour on Guam, the island played host to four international tournaments. While there, he also went to Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, to officiate the Pacific Air Forces basketball championship.

Since returning stateside in 1987, to teach at the Judge Advocate General School at Maxwell AFB, Ala., it has been international basketball and not the Air Force that has taken him abroad. He returned Dec. 5 from Brussels, Belgium, where he officiated the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe basketball championship, the second time in as many years.

As the Olympics follow international rules, his license has also allowed him to officiate at training camps, scrimmages and international exhibition games

for USA Basketball, the first step America's young players make on their way to the games.

"I'm thrilled that I'm able to do the international stuff, because it gives me a chance to referee a very high level of basketball that I normally wouldn't have a chance to do," he said. But with international opportunities infrequent, Rosenow keeps his skills sharp on high school courts, where he can give a little back to the game, while staying a part of it. He added that he is considering working the junior high school level, too, where he can also be a teacher and mentor to young players.

Rosenow said there is a lot in common between judging at the bench and judging on the court, but when he talks about the similarities, it's hard to figure out whether he's talking about his vocation or his avoca-

tion.

"There are a lot of similarities, because you are being asked to make decisions that are fair to both sides; you're being asked to take a set of rules and apply them to some facts that happened, and decide how those rules are supposed to apply to that decision."

He said confidence and conviction are as vital on the court as in it.

"Your decision may not be the exactly right decision, but as long as you tried your very best, prepared well, put yourself in the best position to observe what happened, and made the best decision, being fair to both sides then you have to be able to step away," he said.

"And the coaches, I think, generally speaking, under-

See 'Judge' page 17

Week 15 results

Johnny Rincon – 72

Amanda Stewart – 63

Mike McNeil – 62

Danny Gutierrez – 62

Les McCracken – 62

Charlie Rodriguez – 61

Dave LeRoy – 52

(Week 15 ended with a four-way tie between Gutierrez, McCracken, Rodriguez and Stewart. Each had 11 pts.)

Players' picks for NFL week 16

Each correct pick of weekly matchups earns a player one point, accumulating weekly. The top three players from the second half of the season will compete against the top three from the first half to determine the overall champion at the end of the playoffs. This weeks matchups are (home teams in bold): DAL – **N.O.**, DEN – **DET**, ARI – **ATL**, CIN – **BAL**, IND – **CLE**, BUF – **N.E.**, MIN – **NYG**, CAR – **PIT**, CHI – **STL**, JAX – **TEN**, OAK – **S.D.**, K.C. – **SEA**, G.B. – **T.B.**, WAS – **S.F.**, NYJ – **MIA**.

<i>Les McCracken</i>	<i>Mike McNeil</i>	<i>Johnny Rincon</i>	<i>Dave LeRoy</i>	<i>Charlie Rodriquez</i>	<i>Amanda Stewart</i>	<i>Danny Gutierrez</i>
DAL	DAL	DAL	DAL	DAL	DAL	DAL
DEN	DET	DET	DEN	DET	DET	DET
ARI	ATL	ATL	ARI	ATL	ARI	ARI
BUF	N.E.	N.E.	N.E.	BUF	BUF	BUF
CAR	CAR	CAR	PIT	CAR	CAR	CAR
STL	STL	STL	STL	STL	STL	STL
BAL	BAL	BAL	BAL	BAL	BAL	BAL
IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND	IND
JAX	JAX	JAX	TEN	JAX	JAX	JAX
NYG	MIN	MIN	MIN	MIN	NYG	MIN
K.C.	SEA	SEA	K.C.	K.C.	K.C.	SEA
OAK	OAK	OAK	OAK	OAK	OAK	OAK
T.B.	T.B.	T.B.	G.B.	T.B.	T.B.	T.B.
WAS	WAS	S.F.	WAS	WAS	WAS	WAS
MIA	MIA	MIA	MIA	MIA	MIA	MIA

‘Judge’ from page 16

“A lot of times, if I make a decision, and both sides are equally unhappy, then it’s probably exactly where I want to be,” he added.

Being a judge off the court reinforces his skills on it, but for officials like Rosenow who are also on active duty, so too does military experience. According to Steve Brown, chief, Air Force Sports, being in shape, wearing a sharp uniform, showing up on time, having a propensity for travel, and being disciplined in one’s studies are attributes in common between good airmen and good officials.

“The military is an excellent training ground for referees,” said Brown. “For instance, Air Force people have to be disciplined in their jobs, and in studying for their promotion tests. The same thing applies in officiating, because you have to study the rules and take tests to stay certified.” Brown said one’s personality is also key. “You have to have the right temperament to work in front of thousands of fans who may not appreciate your opinion.”

While being a referee can pay well, though, Rosenow said his rewards for participating are worth more.

“I’ve got a whole bunch of USA Basketball sweatshirts, running suits and stuff like that, but really, it’s an honor to be asked to do it,” he said, adding, “Where else can you have a hobby that keeps you around the game you really love, keeps you around young people and gives exercise?”

(Courtesy AFPN)

Nine club members, guests, win New Orleans trip

By Staff Sgt. Cheryl L.Toner
Air Force Print News

What began as a whim filling out paperwork turned into a long weekend, a lot of freebies and a National Football League game in New Orleans for nine Air Force people.

The Air Force Services Agency, sponsoring a Football Frenzy giveaway, gave club customers a shot at winning football game tickets and a weekend at the game location. All nine winners said they didn’t think they’d win, but filled out the paperwork during football games showed at their respective base clubs “just because.”

Chief Master Sgt. Lionel Timmerman, from Scott Air Force Base, Ill., didn’t even fill out the paperwork — his wife did.

“We were at the club, watching the game,” he said, “but I didn’t think we’d win. We never win anything,” Timmerman said while laughing. “Especially him,” said his wife, Lolita, cutting her husband off, while pointing at him. Well, win they did, and this couple and eight other people and their guests were recipients of a lot of goodies. Most people arrived here Dec. 3 and were surprised by polo shirts and trolley passes placed in their rooms for them.

A mixer held the next day allowed the winners to meet each other. In welcoming the guests, Col. Barry Long, director of programs at the AFSVA, said the only way this was possible — especially in these days of constrained resources — was by great sponsorship.

This is the fourth year Services has put on Football Frenzy. This is also the fourth year Scheduled Airline Ticket Office has been a sponsor, while Miller

Brewing Co. came on board this year.

At the mixer, services officials interrupted the Creole-food spread by announcing that Santa came early and had even more goodies for the winners. Cameras, polo shirts, insulated cups and more were passed out. Long also announced that the mixer would be the only “mandatory formation,” and it is “just fun.”

Before the recipients boarded planes to get here, many had to overcome obstacles put up by their friends, of all people.

“People were buttering me up,” said Staff Sgt. Rick Schleicher, from Whiteman AFB.

“‘You’re the best friend I have,’ or ‘You’re the best supervisor I’ve had,’ are some of the comments I heard,” he said with a laugh.

Julius Williams, a retired master sergeant from Tinker AFB, Okla., didn’t believe he’d won when he was notified.

“I thought it was a telemarketer when they called,” he said. “It didn’t sink in until I went to the NCO club a couple of days later and saw it on the marquee.”

Although Master Sgt. Randal Williams from Randolph AFB, Texas, didn’t have a problem believing he won, he initially thought he wouldn’t win either. However, he had no problem in selecting his wife to come along as his guest.

He said one of the people in the 12th Flying Training Wing Transportation Squadron, where he works, previously won and took one of his male friends.

“He never lived that down,” Will-

iams said. Just to make sure he’d have a trip he wouldn’t get ribbed over, his wife, Marjorie, who works at the Air Force Personnel Center at Randolph, took leave to come along.

“It’s great being here,” said Marjorie. “Bourbon Street is awesome.”

Award-winners painted the town Dec. 5, and the morning of the New Orleans vs. Dallas game Dec. 6, the crowd

met services coordinators for their game tickets and more publicity shots. Just before the game, the crowd split and hopped into two limousines for the ride to the Louisiana Superdome.

The charged atmosphere in and around

the Superdome jazzed the fans and filled the air with anticipation, but the Cowboys couldn’t keep the Saints down and New Orleans won, 22-3.

While the Air Force Football Frenzy winners were divided on team loyalty, many agreed that was just part of winning the services contest.

“The New Orleans experience is the best part,” said retired Senior Master Sgt. Ray Spears, the Air Force Space Command winner from Patrick AFB, Fla. “It would be incomplete without the game, and the game would be incomplete without the weekend.”

It’s obviously too late for anyone to get in on the action for this game; however, there are two more NFL games up for grabs. Anyone interested in winning a shot at the Hawaii Pro-Bowl can register at their base club.

(Courtesy AFPN)

Intramural flag football standings

AFC	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	NFC	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>
87th II	4	0	85th	4	0
CES I	2	0	LSI	3	0
86th	2	1	OSS	3	0
47 MED	2	2	87th	2	2
SFS	1	3	CES II	2	3
OSS II	0	2	MSS	0	4
CON/SVS	0	3	LCSAM	0	5



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PA notes

This is the last issue of the Border Eagle for 1999. The next issue will be published Jan. 14, 2000.

Also, the public affairs office will be close for training Fridays at 2:30 p.m. starting Jan. 7, 2000.

For more information, call 5262.

OSC auction

The Laughlin Officer Spouse Club charitable auction will be Jan. 15, 200 at Club XL.

Preview is 6 p.m. the auctioning starts at 7 p.m. All proceeds benefit the OSC scholarship program.

For reservations, call 298-1206 or 768-3690.

Leaders needed

Del Rio Composite Squadron 42427 of the Civil Air Patrol needs senior leaders. Military members over 21 years of age are preferred, but military service is not required.

For more information, call 778-2313.

Millennium party

There will be a new years eve party – Millennium Bash – starting at 6 p.m. Dec. 31 at the Fiesta Center. The party is for enlisted members, enlisted retirees, civilians and their guests. Tickets can be purchased now for \$22.50 at the 47th Mission Support Squadron orderly room, Club XL or from any first sergeant, first-come first-served basis.

Price includes buffet dinner with roast baron of beef and carver plus sliced, glazed ham; a breakfast buffet, starting at 1 a.m., party favors, complimentary champagne and sparkling grape juice at midnight, commemorative millennium champagne glasses, and a video dance party with intelligent lighting, fog, and lots of music. Dress is casual.

For more information, contact the 47 MSS orderly room, any first sergeant, or Club XL.

Patient interpreters needed

The 47th Medical Group needs patient interpreters. Anyone proficient in a second language and interested in interpreting for patients who do not speak English, please call Master Sgt. Mark Bowersox at 6302.

PMEGA officers election

The Professional Military Education Graduate Association is looking for new officers – president, vice president and treasurer. Anyone interested should attend the next Noncommissioned Officer Association/PMEGA meeting 11 a.m. Jan. 21, 2000 in the civil engineer readiness classroom, building 60.

For more information, call Staff Sgt. Gerald McIntosh at 4111.

No trespass area

The base combat arms firing range – building 1100 – located at the extreme south end of fourth street, adjacent to the water collection ponds, is a no trespass area. Weapons being fired makes this area dangerous.

Anyone with a valid reason to enter the firing range area should contact Staff Sgt. Keith Hellwig at 5151 or the law enforcement desk at 5100.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Reginal Woodruff

Gooo Comm!

Senior Airman Thomas Rose, 47th Communications Squadron, trouble shoots a computer networking problem in the public affairs office Tuesday. Rose, a network technician, and his coworkers are called out

more than 20 times per week to fix problems from e-mail to small computer troubles. If you have computer problems, attempt to determine the source, if unsuccessful, call the 47 CS help desk at 5200.

Water purchases

Drinking water cannot be purchased with the IMPAC card. Anyone authorizing or purchasing water on IMPAC may be required to reimburse the government. Air Force organizations may purchase drinking water with appropriated funds only when it is deemed a necessary expense, such as when:

- Public water supply is unsafe.
- There is an emergency failure of the water source on the installation.
- A temporary facility has no drinking water available within a reasonable distance.
- No drinking water is available without cost or at a lower cost to the government.

This is in accordance with AFI 65-601, Vol 1, 4.45. Special Drinking Water.

Questions can be directed to Barbara Voss at 5590.

Promotion ceremony

There will be an enlisted promotion ceremony 3:30 p.m. Dec. 30 at Club Amistad.

Recycling, refuse

The method of surveillance for refuse and recycling service for the base housing and mobile home residents is customer complaint. Here are other recycling center notes:

- The base recycles scrap metal, insulated wire, aluminum, tin cans, plastic one and two, glass, newspaper, commissary bags, magazines, cardboard and junk

mail. These items should not go into the trash.

- The recycling center has free scrap wood available for wood crafting or other projects.

- Styrofoam packing peanuts can be dropped off at Mail Boxes Etc., 1801 Avenue F. MBE will reuse the peanuts inside parcels they send out. This a great way to recycle and keep styrofoam out of trash.

The recycling center, building 2018, is open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

For more information, call 5247.

Simulator rides

The 47th Operations Group is offering T-37 and T-38 simulator rides during the holidays to anyone interested. The rides are offered as part of the group's annual red carpet days, allowing base personnel and families to experience flying operations here.

Sim rides will be given Dec. 28-30 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Each will last 30 minutes. Rides will be scheduled on a first come, first served basis.

Call Wing Programming at 4344 to schedule a time.

Lawn maintenance

The lack of rainfall in South Texas makes it necessary to continue a lawn watering routine all year long. Even though it is winter, members in base housing are encouraged to water their yards at least once every 3 days. Yard inspections continue throughout the year, so everyone should maintain the yards, especially raking leaves this time of year.

For more information, call Denise Pace at 4198.